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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,664	09/29/2003	William J. Brosnan	IGT1P024C1/P-247CON	5022
22434	7590	05/12/2006	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP			COBURN, CORBETT B	
P.O. BOX 70250			ART UNIT	
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250			PAPER NUMBER	

3714

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,664

Applicant(s)

BROSNAN ET AL.

Examiner

Corbett B. Coburn

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 44-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 44-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the passing and displaying the game results of a first machine on a second machine (and *vice versa*) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it

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pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 44-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant fails to disclose sending the first and second outcomes including the first and second random components between the first and second gaming machines.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 44-47, 51-55, 57-63 & 66-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roffman et al. (US Patent Number 6,375,568) in view of Telnaes (US Patent Number 4,448,419).

Claim 44: Roffman teaches a plurality of gaming machines (each with its own processor, cabinet, coin slots, etc.). Each has a display for a first presentation of a first outcome of a first game of chance played on that machine and a second display for displaying a second outcome of a second game of chance played on a second machine. (Col 6, 26-28) There is a communications interface for communicating the results between machines via a network. (Fig 1 & discussion thereof.) For instance, in the baseball representation, the players watch the Lead Batter's ball game (i.e., the results of

the lead batter's spins). (Col 9, 50-55) Thus if the Lead Batter "hits" a triple, the other players see a representation of a player moving to third base. This can only be done if the other players receive the outcome of the Lead Batter's game. The other games function in a similar manner.

The first and second random outcomes include first and second random components generated independently of player input. (The random number, while not necessarily completely determining the outcome, is included in the components that determine the outcome. This random number is not dependent on user input.)

As pointed out above, Roffman teaches communication of results between gaming machines, but does not explicitly teach communication of random numbers between gaming machines. As Applicant points out in his argument, Roffman teaches a centralized random number generator and the gaming machines are essentially dumb terminals. However, Roffman discloses two embodiments. In the Internet embodiment, there must be a centralized random number generator to ensure that the player does not tamper with the results. The second embodiment is composed of gaming machines located within the casino. (Col 6, 52-60) Many, if not most, gaming machines used in a casino have their own random number generator. This is a great advantage since a breakdown in Roffman's central controller would mean that all the terminals (14) connected to it would also be inoperative. On the other hand, if each machine has its own random number generator, a breakdown in the central controller would still leave the gaming machines usable in a standalone mode. This redundancy allows casinos to maintain levels of profitability even in the face of hardware failure.

Telnaes teaches a gaming machine in which a random number generator generates a random number that uniquely identifies the stop position of the reels. For a single payline machine, this determines the result. Thus the transmitting game results between machines would entail transmitting the random number between machines or its equivalent.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Roffman in view of Telnaes to have a random number generator in each gaming machine and to transmit the random number generated by that gaming machine to others in the system (i.e., between the first and second gaming machines and *vice versa*) in order to have redundancy within in the system, thus ensuring operability in the event of central controller breakdown, thus protecting casino profits.

Claim 45: Roffman teaches that the outcome presentations may be displayed on separate portions of the same display. (Col 6, 26-28)

Claim 46: The results of the game played on each gaming machine are combined into a combined presentation and displayed on each gaming machine. The combined presentation is displayed as theme game (72). In one embodiment, the group of players must “steal” 15 gold bars (73) from vault (72). Every time a player spins and obtains the proper symbol combination, a gold bar is removed from the vault. (Col 13, 51-55) Thus the result presentation of several game machines are combined into a single result presentation.

Claim 47: Roffman teaches a game in which there is interaction between a presentation element representing the police and a presentation element representing a gang (i.e., there

is a car chase). Some of the results generated by the players help the gang, while others help the police. Thus the first and second elements appear to interact during the combined presentation. (Col 14, 27-64) In another embodiment, the presentation elements are cars involved in a demolition derby. These cars crash into each other based on game results. These crashes are shown in action window (82). (Col 17, 18-29) These car crashes are interaction between first and second elements during the combine presentation.

Claim 51: The bonus game can be triggered by an event in the combined presentation. When 15 bars of gold are stolen, a bonus game is triggered.

Claim 52: In the demolition derby game, one or more indicia are used to distinguish between the first and second objects in the combine presentation -- the cars look different.

Claim 53: Each player has an associated car.

Claim 54: The first and second objects (cars) are from their respective presentations.

Claim 55: The combined presentation is displayed on all machines simultaneously.

Claim 57: Roffman teaches a network. (Fig 1) A network must either have wired links, wireless links, or a combination of the two.

Claims 58-60: Roffman teaches that there may be an arbitrary number of displays sharing a joint presentation. (Fig 1)

Claims 61 & 62: The amount of the wagers and their timing may be different.

Claim 63: The triggering of a bonus game presented on all of the machines may depend on events generated on each machine. The stealing of gold bars is accomplished by

generating certain results on the various machines. Thus each machine may generate an event that leads to a bonus game.

Claims 66 & 67: Roffman discloses a slot game as a first and second game.

Claim 68: The first presentation is displayed on a first portion of the second display and the second presentation on a second portion of the second display. (Fig 3)

6. Claims 48-50, 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roffman and Telnaes as applied to claim 46 and further in view of Pierce et al. (US Patent Number 6,047,963).

Claim 48: Roffman & Telnaes teach the invention substantially as claimed, but fail to teach a pachinko game. Pierce teaches a linking a bank of slot machines to play a video pachinko bonus game. (Col 3, 14-16) Pachinko is an extremely popular game. Roffman states that other theme games may be used. (Col 18, 8-10) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Roffman and Telnaes in view of Pierce to implement a video pachinko theme game in which each element is a pachinko object resulting from a wager on its respective game machine in order to take advantage of the popularity of pachinko.

Claim 49: Roffman teaches collisions between presentation elements (i.e., the cars in the demolition derby). Clearly, in a pachinko theme game, the collisions would take place between pachinko balls instead of cars.

Claim 50: In a physical pachinko game, a collision between balls would alter the trajectory of the colliding balls. While Pierce does not specifically teach that a collision between balls would alter the trajectory of the colliding balls, it would have been obvious

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to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to alter the trajectories in order to more closely mimic a physical pachinko game.

Claim 56: Roffman teaches the invention substantially as claimed, but fails to teach a shared display that is visible from all machines. Pierce teaches a shared display that is visible from all machines. (Col 3, 14-18) Large displays are known to attract the attention of passersby, thus encouraging them to play. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Roffman in view of Pierce to include a shared display that is visible from all machines in order to attract the attention of passersby, thus encouraging them to play.

7. Claims 64 & 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roffman and Telnaes as applied to claim 63 above, and further in view of Seelig et al. (US Patent Number 5,664,998).

Claims 64 & 65: Roffman and Telnaes teach the invention substantially as claimed, but fail to teach a bonus game triggered by a wager amount input on each machine that totals more than a threshold amount. Seelig teaches a bonus game that is triggered when any amount is bet. (Abstract) Thus a single coin would be the threshold amount. Seelig teaches that this creates competition between the players. (Col 2, 36-41) This attracts players. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Roffman in view of Seelig to include a bonus game triggered by a wager amount input on each machine that totals more than a threshold amount in order to foster competition between the players, thus attracting players.

Response to Arguments

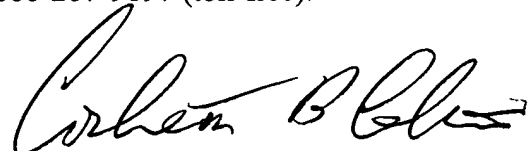
8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 44-68 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4447. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Corbett B. Coburn
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3714

**CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**